(CBWTF)", which provide facility to treat bio-medical wastes of Government Hospitals as well as private sector healthcare units. Inspections are carried out by Delhi Pollution Control Committee to ensure that incineration takes place at the optimum temperature so that the generations of these obnoxious fumes do not take place.

CCFS Sub-Committee on synthetic colours in sweets and beverages

1258. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Additives and Contaminants Sub-Committee of CCFS has recommended conduct of national level survey on maximum level of synthetic colours in sweets and beverages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Food Additives and Contaminants Sub-Committee of CCFS considered the comments on draft PFA Amendment Rules pertaining to lowering of maximum limit of synethetic food colours (Erythrosine and Sunset Yellow FCF). The Sub-Committee observed that the proposed draft rules are based on results of limited survey and hence a national level survey should be conducted on the issue. A decision on the need for national level survey is to be taken by the Government.

Steps to check the quacks and untrained doctors

†1259. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the people are cheated by the quacks and untrained doctors in the country who give misleading advertisments for guaranteed treatment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the activities of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The State Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners take action where called for against quacks. The provisions exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to take action against unqualified/unregistered practitioners of medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provision can be punished with imprisonment and fine under respective Acts. The responsibility of enforcement of the statutory provisions is that of various State Governments

Use of synthetic vanilla in ice-cream

1260. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that synthetic vanilla is widely used in ice-creams;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government would introduce any measure to stop ice-cream producers from using synethetic vanilla, which is harmful to health; and

(c) whether Government has noticed the fact the price of natural vanilla is coming down these days?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Synethetic Vanilla (Ethyl vanillin) used as flavouring agent in foods has been evaluated by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives which indicate no safety concern at current level of intake when used as a flavouring agent.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 requires the label of ice-cream containing synthetic vanilla shall mention "contains artificial flavouring substance" under the list of ingredients.

(c) The Directorate of Economic & Statistics (Price Divisions), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, do not collect information on the price of Vanilla.

Nodal agency to ensure the treatment to needy patients

1261. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIIMS and Safdarjung hospitals etc. have formed a nodal agency to ensure that needy patients are not denied treatment on the excuse of bed shortage;

(b) if so, details of nodal agency so formed, if any;

(c) whether a number of barracks have been vacated and if so, what is the proposal to utilize those barracks lying idle;

(d) whether patients are discharged a day or two after surgery and are called again to come for removal of stitches and checking; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving discharge to them without removal of stitches?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The High Court of Delhi vide its order dated 31.10.2007 has directed the Director-General of Health Services to form a nodal agency of the AIIMS and Safdarjung hospital. The modalities are being finalized by the DGHS in consultation with the two hospitals.

(d) and (e) The practice of early mobilization and discharge of patients is followed and encourage according to the internationally accepted guidelines.

Implementation of Prof. Thorat Committee

1262. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures are being planned for implementation of the Prof. Thorat Committee recommendation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?